The Moral Covenant of Governance

Liberating vs Tyrannical Governance
The Never-Ending Battle Over Unalienable Rights

For centuries, implied moral governance has failed, allowing tyranny to masquerade as necessity and erode unalienable rights through gradual encroachments.

by
Michael Fargano & Grok (xAI)
December 19, 2025

Document download available here:
https://archive.org/details/@michael_fargano
Or X.com: @MichaelFargano

CC BY

Free Cultural APPROVED FOR Works

The Moral Covenant of Governance – Manifesto

– We declare that all governance must rest on an explicit moral covenant to secure unalienable rights against the never-ending threat of tyranny.
– Implied morality has failed throughout history, allowing subjugation to masquerade as necessity.

Therefore, we commit to three inseparable moral pillars:

- ***Adherence to the Golden Rule***
- ***Protection of the Commons***
- ***Securing of Unalienable Rights***

– These moral pillars alone turn the Vicious Tyranny Cycle into the Virtuous Liberating Cycle.
– We pledge to judge every leader, law, and institution by this moral covenant.
– We will expose tyranny wherever it hides.
– We will defend liberty wherever it burns.
– Liberty or subjugation – There is no neutral ground.

The Moral Covenant of Governance – Motivation

Implied morality in governance has repeatedly failed, just as implied rights in the original U.S. Constitution did.

- Without explicit anchors, crises become pretexts for permanent power grabs (court-packing, internment, surveillance).
- Ambiguity allows the Inverted Golden Rule and Plunder of the Commons to flourish under the guise of “necessity,” “security,” or “progress.”
- History proves: slavery, genocides, and modern authoritarianism all exploited moral vagueness.

We need an explicit covenant because:

- Tyranny thrives on moral fog.
- Liberty requires moral light.
- The three pillars provide that light – rational, universal, and unbreakable.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

The Moral Covenant of Governance – The Three Pillars

- ***Adherence to the Golden Rule***: Power is wielded only in ways the ruler would willingly accept if roles were reversed. Counters interpersonal tyranny; ensures mutual respect and trust.
- ***Protection of the Commons***: Stewardship of shared inheritance – peace, justice, environment, ordered liberty – for all generations. Prevents plunder that indirectly destroys rights for everyone.
- ***Securing of Unalienable Rights***: Explicit defense of inherent human endowments (life, liberty, conscience, property) against all encroachment. Makes rights non-negotiable; anchors the other two pillars.

Together, they form the complete moral foundation;
Individual – Relational – Collective;
Uphold them → Virtuous Liberating Cycle;
Violate them → Vicious Tyranny Cycle.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

The Moral Covenant of Governance – Call to Action – Take The Oath

Oath to the Moral Covenant of Governance:

For centuries, implied moral governance has failed, allowing tyranny to erode unalienable rights.

I, [Name], in my position of power, solemnly swear to uphold the Moral Covenant:

- To adhere to the Golden Rule, wielding authority only as I would submit to.
- To protect the Commons, stewarding shared inheritance for all generations.
- To secure unalienable rights, defending life, liberty, conscience, property, and happiness against encroachment.

I pledge to reject tyrannical methods and embrace liberating ones. If I violate this oath, may I forfeit my position and face judgment of those I serve.
Liberty over subjugation.
So help me God / My Conscience.

Generic and Effective:

Universal Applicability: The pillars focus on ethical principles rather than specific laws or institutions. Apply to government, corporations, associations, families,...

Government: Signed at inauguration to commit to constitutional limits and public service.

Corporate: Included in corporate charters or leadership pledges to guide ethical decisions.

HOA Board: Recited at annual meetings to ensure rules respect residents' rights and community resources.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Outline

The Moral Covenant of Governance

Manifesto
Motivation
The Three Pillars
CALL TO ACTION: Take The Oath

Liberating vs Tyrannical Governance – Systems Analysis

Moral Clarity: Liberty vs Subjugation *(Pg7)*
Liberating (Liberty Enablement) vs Tyranny (Subjugation Enablement)
Liberating Methods Taxonomy vs Tyrannical Methods Taxonomy

Liberating Intensity vs Tyrannical Intensity Scales *(Pg16)*
Systemic Good vs Systemic Evil
Absolute Good vs Absolute Evil
Rational Overall Liberating Intensity Scale (ROLIS) *(PG19)*
Rational Overall Tyrannical Intensity Scale (ROTIS)
ROLIS Attributes & Incremental Changes
ROTIS Attributes & Incremental Changes
ROLIS Scoring Algorithm
ROTIS Scoring Algorithm

Liberating vs Tyrannical Governance – Systems Analysis (Continued)

USA Presidents – High ROLIS Scores (Liberating) *(Pg25)*
USA Presidents – High ROTIS Scores (Tyrannical)
Famous Global Liberators (ROLIS 9-10)
Infamous Global Tyrants (ROTIS 9-10)

Life-Cycle of Societies via the ROLIS/ROTIS Lens *(Pg29)*

Battleground: One Trigger / Two Narratives – Two Potential Futures *(Pg32)*
The Vicious Tyranny Cycle – The Engine Driving Subjugation
The Virtuous Liberating Cycle – The Engine Driving Liberty

The Governance Interface *(Pg35)*
Governance Zone Analysis – Revealing Governance Boundary Tension

The Fog of Tyranny – Obscuring Systemic Evil
The Light of Liberty – Revealing Systemic Good

Moral Clarity: Liberty vs Subjugation

Liberty is the condition of being free from oppressive rule and arbitrary power, in which unalienable rights (life, liberty, conscience, property, pursuit of happiness) are secure, human dignity is honored, and individuals and communities may flourish without coercion or systemic violation.

Subjugation is the oppressive condition of a people whose unalienable rights — such as life, liberty, conscience, property, and the pursuit of happiness — have been systematically stripped away or rendered insecure through arbitrary governance, denial of consent, or coercive measures like unjust laws, violence, economic control, propaganda, or institutional domination — prioritizing the ruler's power while destroying the inherent freedoms, dignity, and well-being of the governed.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Liberating (Liberty Enablement) vs Tyranny (Subjugation Enablement)

Liberating is the righteous wielding of power by an individual, group, or institution that systematically protects and expands unalienable rights through voluntary governance, explicit consent, and covenantal measures (just laws, mutual defense, economic freedom, truth-speaking, decentralized control), subordinating the ruler's interests to the freedom, dignity, and well-being of the governed.

Tyranny is the oppressive wielding of power by an individual, group, or institution that systematically suppresses or destroys unalienable rights – such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – through arbitrary governance, denial of consent, or coercive measures like unjust laws, violence, economic subjugation, propaganda, or institutional control – prioritizing the ruler's interests while undermining the inherent freedoms, dignity, and well-being of the governed.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Liberating Method vs Tyrannical Method (1)

Liberating Method is a deliberate strategy or tactic that a ruler, institution, or people employ to establish, defend, or restore liberty by putting into practice the two covenantal moral principles that anchor unalienable rights:

The Golden Rule – Power is wielded only in ways the ruler himself would willingly submit to if the roles were reversed.

Protection of the Commons – The shared inheritance of liberty, justice, ordered peace, and the natural world belongs to every generation and must be stewarded through well-regulated, consent-based systems that prevent plunder by any individual, faction, or ruler.

Tyrannical Method is a deliberate strategy or tactic that a ruler, regime, or institution employs to create, deepen, or perpetuate subjugation by violating the two covenantal moral principles that anchor unalienable rights, per the following subversions:

The Inverted Golden Rule – Power is wielded in ways the ruler would never accept if the roles were reversed (do unto others what you would never allow done unto you).

Plunder of the Commons – The shared inheritance of liberty, justice, ordered peace, and the natural world is treated as the personal property of the ruler or elite, to be looted, monopolized, or destroyed for present advantage with no regard for past or future generations.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Liberating Method vs Tyrannical Method (2)

Liberating Method (continued):
These two *principles* are turned into concrete law, culture, and structure through the nine Liberating Methods, which operate across the three foundational layers of human freedom:
1. Constitutional & Institutional Layer – entrenching strict separation of powers, independent judicial review, unalienable rights, and genuine federalism/decentralization;
2. Economic & Social Layer – Guaran-teering transparent consent-based taxation, inviolable property rights, free markets, and a thriving independent civil society of voluntary associations;
3. Spiritual & Psychological Layer – cultivating universal civic education, absolute free speech, cultural honor of conscience and dissent, and an armed, trained citizenry as the final check.

Tyrannical Method (continued):
These two *violations* are turned into concrete law, culture, and structure through the nine Tyrannical Methods, which operate across the three foundational layers of human freedom:
1. Constitutional & Institutional Layer – centralizing power, corrupting checks and balances, weaponizing courts, or erasing rights and federalism;
2. Economic & Social Layer – confiscating property, imposing coercive taxation, crushing voluntary associations, and making citizens financially dependent on the state;
3. Spiritual & Psychological Layer – silencing dissent, controlling information, enforcing ideological conformity, disarming the population, and eroding the cultural honor of conscience.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Liberating Methods Taxonomy vs Tyrannical Methods Taxonomy

Liberating Methods Taxonomy is a diagnostic framework that identifies and categorizes the nine proven, repeatable methods by which rulers institutions, or peoples deliberately build and defend human freedom across the three foundational layers:
1. Constitutional & Institutional Liberation (entrenching separation of powers, judicial review, rights, and federalism)
2. Economic & Social Liberation (securing property, consent-based taxation, free markets, and independent civil society)
3. Spiritual & Psychological Liberation (fostering civic education, absolute speech, honor of dissent, and an armed citizenry).

Tyrannical Methods Taxonomy is a diagnostic framework that identifies and categorizes the nine proven, repeatable methods by which rulers and regimes deliberately dismantle human freedom across three foundational layers:
1. Constitutional & Institutional Subjugation (centralizing power and erasing checks and balances)
2. Economic & Social Subjugation (creating financial dependence and crushing voluntary society)
3. Spiritual & Psychological Subjugation (silencing conscience, controlling truth, and disarming the people).

Level 1: Liberating Methods Taxonomy vs Tyrannical Methods Taxonomy (1)

Liberating Methods Taxonomy: The top level (Level 0) of the taxonomy is the definition of Liberating Method itself. Level 1 of the taxonomy builds on that top level

1. Constitutional & Institutional Liberation: Upholds the Golden Rule and protects the Commons by entrenching strict separation of powers, independent judicial review, inalienable rights, and genuine federalism — making tyranny structurally impossible even if a majority demands it.

(Continued on next slide).

Tyrannical Methods Taxonomy: The top level (Level 0) of the taxonomy is the definition of Tyrannical Method itself. Level 1 of the taxonomy builds on that top level:

1. Constitutional & Institutional Subjugation: Violates the Golden Rule and plunders the Commons by fusing powers, capturing courts, and abolishing rights & federalism — turning the very structures meant to limit power into weapons of permanent domination.

(Continued on next slide).

Level 1: Liberating Methods Taxonomy vs Tyrannical Methods Taxonomy (2)

Liberating Methods Taxonomy:

2. Economic & Social Liberation:
Upholds the Golden Rule and protects the Commons by securing transparent consent-based taxation, inviolable property rights, free markets, and a thriving independent civil society so the people can survive, cooperate, and resist without the state's permission.

3. Spiritual & Psychological Liberation:
Upholds the Golden Rule and protects the Commons by cultivating absolute free speech, truth pluralism, civic education, cultural honor of conscience & dissent, and an armed, trained citizenry so the people retain both the will and the ability to think and fight back.

Tyrannical Methods Taxonomy:

2. Economic & Social Subjugation:
Violates the Golden Rule and plunders the Commons by using military/police occupation, coercive taxation, property confiscation, economic oppression, and intimidation to make the people financially dependent, socially atomized, and physically terrorized.

3. Spiritual & Psychological Subjugation: Violates the Golden Rule and plunders the Commons by undermining autonomy, psychological subjugation through propaganda, and dehumanization & atrocities — breaking the people's mind, conscience, and will to resist.

Liberating Methods Taxonomy

Level 1 Methods	Level 2 Methods	Level 2 Liberating Methods Description
Constitutional & Institutional Liberation	***Strict Separation of Powers & Checks and Balances***	Power is divided into independent branches, each able to block or reverse the others; super-majority requirements and sunset clauses force constant consent of the governed.
	Independent Judiciary with Judicial Review	Lifetime-appointed judges, insulated from politics, can void any law or executive act that violates fundamental rights.
	Unalienable Rights & Genuine Federalism	Explicit, irrevocable rights (speech, arms, conscience, property, due process) + real power reserved to states/cantons so no center can dominate.
Economic & Social Liberation	***Transparent, Consent-Based Taxation & Spending***	Taxes are low, simple, visible, and require explicit popular or legislative approval; the state cannot weaponize finance against citizens.
	Inviolable Property Rights & Free Markets	Private property is sacred, contracts are enforced impartially, entrepreneurship is unrestricted — preventing coercion through economic dependency.
	Thriving Civil Society & Voluntary Association	Citizens freely form independent churches, unions, schools, militias, and mutual-aid networks that create parallel power centers.
Psychological and Spiritual Liberation	***Universal Civic Education & Critical Thinking***	Every child is taught logic, history of liberty/tyranny, and the mechanics of power — raising generations allergic to propaganda.
	Absolute Free Speech, Truth Pluralism & Honor of Conscience	No state censorship, no “disinformation” offices, no compelled speech — competing voices ensure no narrative monopoly.
	Armed & Trained Liberating People	A disciplined, armed citizenry (militia or responsible individuals) serves as the final physical check against military tyranny.

Tyrannical Methods Taxonomy

Level 1 Methods	Level 2 Methods	Level 2 Tyrannical Methods Description
Constitutional & Institutional Subjugation	***Abuse of Executive Power***	Unchecked authority by manipulating or bypassing legal & legislative frameworks.
	Interference with Justice System	Corrupting judicial independence or obstructing justice to ensure favorable outcomes for the ruler & suppress dissent.
	Denial of Rights & Liberties	Revoking fundamental freedoms to dismantle opposition and maintain control through fear and legal disenfranchisement.
Economic & Social Subjugation	***Military Overreach & Suppression***	Deploying military forces domestically to intimidate or suppress civilians to enforce obedience through martial dominance.
	Economic & Trade Oppression	Exploitative economic policies, such as unjust taxation or trade restrictions, to create dependency, punish dissent, and enrich the ruling elite.
	Coercion & Intimidation	Employing threats, physical force, or state-sponsored violence to compel compliance and silence opposition, fostering a climate of fear to deter resistance and enforce loyalty.
Psychological and Spiritual Subjugation	***Undermining Autonomy***	Eroding local governance and individual agency through centralized control, dismantling regional or personal freedoms to prevent independent action against the regime.
	Psychological Subjugation	Using propaganda and misinformation to manipulate public perception, vilify opponents, and create division, thereby breaking individual will and enforcing ideological conformity.
	Dehumanization & Atrocities	Degrading targeted groups through propaganda and committing severe acts of violence or neglect to justify oppression, break societal bonds, and instill terror as a means to enforce loyalty and suppress rebellion.

Liberating Intensity vs Tyrannical Intensity Scales

Rational Overall Liberating Intensity Scale (ROTLS) is a precise, ruler-centered diagnostic tool that measures the overall intensity of liberty-enabling behavior in a leader, regime, or governing system, from 1 (total absence of Liberating Methods – perfect subjugation) to 10 (Exemplary Guardian of Covenant Liberty – full, self-reinforcing freedom across all layers, where strong central rule is rejected as unnecessary). It quantifies how aggressively and completely the nine Liberating Methods are being deployed across the three layers (constitutional/institutional, economic/social, spiritual/psychological).
A score of 7 or higher indicates Systemic Good.

Rational Overall Tyrannical Intensity Scale (ROTIS) is a precise, ruler-centered diagnostic tool that measures the overall intensity of tyrannical behavior in a leader, regime, or governing system, from 1 (Exemplary Guardian of Liberty – no suppression of unalienable rights) to 10 (Absolute Tyrant – unchecked destruction of all freedoms through violence, propaganda, and total institutional control). It quantifies how aggressively and completely the nine Tyrannical Methods are being deployed across the three layers (constitutional/institutional, economic/social, spiritual/psychological).
A score of 7 or higher indicates Systemic Evil.

Systemic Good vs Systemic Evil

Systemic Good is the deliberate, large-scale, and sustained promotion of human flourishing through the systematic deployment of six or more Liberating Methods across the three foundational layers of human freedom (constitutional/institutional, economic/social, spiritual/psychological), resulting in secure, expanding liberty and the effective protection of unalienable rights for all. Measured as ROLIS 7 or higher. Synonymous with Absolute Good when the liberty is near-total and self-reinforcing (ROLIS 9–10).

Systemic Evil is the deliberate, large-scale, and sustained infliction of harm through the systematic deployment of six or more Tyrannical Methods across the three foundational layers of human freedom (constitutional/institutional, economic/social, spiritual/psychological), resulting in widespread subjugation and the effective destruction of unalienable rights. Measured as ROTIS 7 or higher. Synonymous with Absolute Evil when the destruction is near-total (ROTIS 9–10).

Absolute Good vs Absolute Evil

Absolute Good is the deliberate, near-total, and self-sacrificial establishment of human freedom and dignity through the full-intensity deployment of all nine Liberating Methods across every layer of life — constitutional, economic, and spiritual — resulting in a society that has rendered strong central tyranny structurally impossible and culturally unthinkable, where the people themselves refuse to accept a permanent ruler. Measured as ROLIS 9–10. Synonymous with Systemic Good when taken to its final, covenantal perfection.

Absolute Evil is the deliberate, near-total, and unrestrained destruction of human freedom and dignity through the full-intensity deployment of all nine Tyrannical Methods across every layer of life — constitutional, economic, and spiritual — resulting in the systematic annihilation of unalienable rights, the crushing of conscience, and the reduction of a people to objects of the ruler's will. Measured as ROTIS 9–10. Synonymous with Systemic Evil when taken to its final, apocalyptic extreme.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Rational Overall Liberating Intensity Scale (ROLIS)

1: Absolute Suppressor of Liberty – Suppressor of Liberty deliberately and completely dismantles every Liberating Method; mirror of ROTIS 10 Absolute Tyrant.

2: Opportunistic Minimalist – Keeps only the liberating methods that personally benefit him; everything else is negotiable or suppressed.

3: Passive Enabler of Decline – Does little to stop systemic erosion; vestigial liberty remains only because institutions still limp along.

4: Eroding Custodian – Allows or causes gradual rollback of Liberating Methods; still pays lip-service to rights but does not actively defend them.

5: Mixed or Controversial Steward – Preserves some pillars (e.g., speech, markets) while weakening others (e.g., federalism, judiciary); liberty survives but contested.

6: Flawed but Genuine Reformer – Expands liberty in some layers but leaves gaps or overreaches in others; still respects courts and elections.

7: Covenant Builder (threshold of Systemic Good) – Deliberately entrenches 6–7 Liberating Methods; willingly loses elections or referenda rather than erode checks; models repentance.

8: Constitutional Servant-King – Jealously guards limits on his own power; uses crises only to strengthen courts, referenda, and armed citizenry; vetoes expansions.

9: Self-Dissolving Liberator – Completes liberating reforms, then voluntarily steps aside or reduces office to ceremonial; refuses any third term or dynasty.

10: Exemplary Guardian of Covenant Liberty – Actively dismantles his own power; teaches the people to live without a strong central ruler; sacrifices position, wealth, or life so liberty becomes self-sustaining.

Rational Overall Tyrannical Intensity Scale (ROTIS)

1: Exemplary Guardian of Liberty – No suppression; enhances rights and institutions.

2: Minimal Overreach – Rare, minor policy excesses within norms.

3: Mild Authoritarian Leanings – Some centralization, but checked and non-systemic.

4: Notable Power Concentration – Frequent executive actions, occasional rights erosion.

5: Balanced but Controversial Ruler – Mix of reforms and overreaches; debated intent.

6: Significant Overreach – Broad institutional manipulation, growing suppression.

7: High Authoritarian Tendencies – Widespread methods, eroding checks and balances.

8: Oppressive Regime Builder – Systemic rights denial, coercive dominance.

9: Tyrannical Despot – Near-total control via violence/propaganda; mass impact.

10: Absolute Tyrant – Unchecked destruction of freedoms; historical atrocity level.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

ROLIS Attributes & Incremental Changes

ROLIS Level	Freq. of Lib Action	Scope of Lib Impact	Rights Protection	Constraints on Liberation	Intent and Justification
1: Absolute Suppressor of Liberty	None	None	None	Robust	Pure tyrannical intent
2: Opportunistic Minimalist	Rare	Localized	Minimal	Strong	Self-interest disguised as pragmatism
3: Passive Enabler of Decline	Occasional	Limited	Moderate (reversible)	Moderate	Crisis-driven centralization
4: Eroding Custodian	Rare	Localized (specific cases)	Minimal (temporary)	Weak	Rare policy excess, norm-compliant
5: Mixed or Controversial Steward	Occasional	Moderate (wider)	Occasional (noticeable)	Limited	Frequent actions, some erosion
6: Flawed but Genuine Reformer	Regular	Broad (multiple sectors)	Significant (debated)	Minimal	Reformist intent with gaps
7: Covenant Builder (Systemic Good threshold)	Sustained	Widespread (institutional)	Growing (systemic)	Very weak	Broad reinforcement of safeguards
8: Constitutional Servant-King	Near-constant	Nationwide	Near-total (few gaps)	None (in effect)	Widespread protection + deliberate restraint
9: Self-Dissolving Liberator	Constant	Near-total	Near-total	None (in effect)	Deliberate surrender or diffusion of power
10: Exemplary Guardian of Covenant Liberty	Constant	Total (all society, all generations)	Total – all rights fully secured	None – tyranny structurally impossible	Pure covenantal intent – power exists only to serve liberty

ROTIS Attributes & Incremental Changes

ROTIS Level	Frequency of Tyranny	Scope of Impact	Rights Erosion	Constraints on Tyranny	Intent and Justification
1: Exemplary Guardian of Liberty	None	None	None	Robust (full oversight)	Enhances rights / institutions
2: Minimal Overreach Rare	Rare	Localized (specific cases	Minimal (temporary)	Strong (corrected by institutions)	Rare policy excess, norm-compliant
3: Mild Authoritarian Leanings	Occasional	Limited (targeted)	Moderate (reversible)	Moderate (some checks)	Crisis-driven centralization
4: Notable Power Concentration	Frequent	Moderate (wider)	Occasional (noticeable)	Weak (partial checks)	Frequent actions some erosion
5: Balanced but Controversial	Regular	Broad (multiple sectors)	Significant (debated)	Limited (partial oversight)	Reformist with overreach intent
6: Significant Overreach	Sustained	Widespread (institutional)	Growing (systemic)	Minimal (eroding resistance)	Broad manipulation, growing control
7: High Authoritarian Tendencies	Near-constant	Near-nationwide	Severe (freq violations)	Very weak (residual checks)	Widespread methods, eroded checks
8: Oppressive Regime Builder	Constant	Nationwide	Systemic (widespread)	None (no internal checks)	Coercive dominance, systemic denial of rights
9: Tyrannical Despot	Constant	Total (all society)	Near-total (mass impact)	None (external limits only)	Near-total control, violence-driven
10: Absolute Tyrant Constant	Constant	Total (collapse)	Total (annihilation)	None (fully unchecked)	Unchecked destruction of unalienable rights

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

ROLIS Scoring Algorithm

Liberating Method (Level 2)	Is this method currently strong and effective?
Strict Separation of Powers & Checks and Balances	Are the three branches genuinely independent and actively blocking one another when needed?
Independent Judiciary with Judicial Review	Do courts regularly strike down unconstitutional laws or executive actions without fear or favor?
Unalienable Rights & Genuine Federalism	Are core rights (speech, religion, due process...) and real power-sharing between central/federal and local levels strongly protected in practice?
Transparent, Consent-Based Taxation & Spending	Is taxation low, fully transparent, and requires ongoing, explicit popular or legislative consent (no automatic permanent increases)?
Inviolable Property Rights & Free Markets	Can people own, buy, sell, and build without heavy state interference or arbitrary seizure?
Thriving Civil Society & Voluntary Association	Are independent churches, clubs, unions, businesses, and associations free to form and operate without state permission or control?
Universal Civic Education & Critical Thinking	Are children and citizens systematically taught logic, history of liberty, and how power actually works?
Absolute Free Speech, Truth Pluralism & Honor of Conscience	Is there no censorship, no compelled speech, and is dissent culturally respected rather than punished?
Armed & Trained Liberating People	Is there a broadly armed, responsibly trained citizenry that serves as the ultimate backstop against tyranny?

Scoring rules based on question column:

Yes = +1
Partial = +0.5
No = 0

Methods bonus weighted with extra 0.5: Independent Judiciary; Armed & Trained Liberating People.
Allowable scoring values: 0.0 (no), 0.5 (partial), 1.0 (partial), 1.5 (yes)

Weighted Total (out of 10)

10.0: ROLIS 10
9.0, 9.5: ROLIS 9
8.0, 8.5: ROLIS 8
7.0, 7.5: ROLIS 7
-
0.0, 0.5 : ROLIS 1

Context Adjustment:
Add 1 for existential crises (e.g., Civil War, WWI, WWII,..)

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

ROTIS Scoring Algorithm

Tyrannical Method (Level 2)	Is this method currently active and effective?
Abuse of Executive Power	Is the executive routinely bypassing legislature, constitution, or courts?
Interference with Justice System	Are courts corrupted, intimidated, or packed to deliver regime-favorable outcomes?
Denial of Rights & Liberties	Are fundamental rights (speech, assembly, arms, property, due process) being actively revoked or suppressed?
Military Overreach & Suppression	Are military or police forces deployed domestically to intimidate or silence citizens?
Economic & Trade Oppression	Are economic tools (taxation, sanctions, trade barriers, licensing) used as weapons against dissenters or groups?
Coercion & Intimidation	Are threats, violence, or state-sponsored intimidation routinely used to enforce obedience?
Undermining Autonomy	Is local, regional, or individual autonomy being deliberately eroded or centralized?
Psychological Subjugation	Is there a state-dominated propaganda machine, censorship, or compelled speech?
Dehumanization & Atrocities	Are opponents systematically demonized, and is violence or atrocity against them justified or tolerated?

Scoring rules based on question column:

Yes = +1
Partial = +0.5
No = 0

Methods bonus weighted with extra 0.5: Interference with Justice System; Dehumanization & Atrocities. Allowable scoring values: 0.0 (no), 0.5 (partial), 1.0 (partial), 1.5 (yes)

Weighted Total (out of 10)

10.0: ROTIS 10
9.0, 9.5: ROTIS 9
8.0, 8.5: ROTIS 8
7.0, 7.5: ROTIS 7
-
0.0, 0.5 : ROTIS 1

Context Adjustment:
Subtract 1 for existential crises (e.g., Civil War, WWI, WWII,..)

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

USA Presidents – High ROLIS Scores (Liberating)

President	ROTIS	ROLIS	Brief Description
George Washington (1789–97)	1	10	Voluntary surrender of military command, two-term retirement precedent, ratification of Bill of Rights, Farewell Address warning against permanent power & foreign entanglements – the living archetype of self-limiting, covenant leadership.
Thomas Jefferson (1801–09)	2	9	Cut federal taxes, army, and navy by 90 %, ended Alien & Sedition enforcement (speech/press), Louisiana Purchase without new federal powers, refused permanent standing army – “peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations.”
Calvin Coolidge (1923–29)	2	9	Cut taxes four times, paid down 25 % of national debt, vetoed farm subsidies & bonuses (checks & balances), refused federal flood relief overreach, promoted voluntary associations – “The chief business of the American people is business… and liberty.”
Grover Cleveland (1885–97)	3	8	Vetoed more bills than all predecessors combined (checks & balances), defended gold standard (property rights), vetoed Texas seed bill (“though the people support the government, the government should not support the people”), opposed Hawaii annexation (anti-imperialism).

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

USA Presidents – High ROTIS Scores (Tyrannical)

President	ROTIS	ROLIS	Brief Description
Donald J. Trump (2017–21 & 2025–)	7	4	Election denial (rights & liberties denial), repeated attacks on judges/prosecutors (justice interference), “enemy of the people” rhetoric against press (psychological subjugation), mass deportation plans & family separation (coercion), tariff wars as economic weapons (economic oppression), and use of military parades / federal agents in cities (military overreach) – highest ROTIS of any modern U.S. President.
Richard Nixon (1969–74	6	5	Watergate break-in & cover-up (executive abuse), “enemies list” & IRS audits of critics (coercion/intimidation), secret bombing of Cambodia (military overreach), Saturday Night Massacre (judicial interference), and creation of the “imperial presidency” doctrine – resigned before full consolidation.
Andrew Jackson (1829–37)	6	5	Indian Removal Act & Trail of Tears (dehumanization & coercion), defiance of Supreme Court in Worcester v. Georgia (judicial interference), Specie Circular & Bank War (economic oppression), spoils system (institutional corruption) – personal dominance within early federal limits.
Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933–45)	4	7	Court-packing plan (judicial interference), Executive Order 9066 Japanese internment (rights denial & dehumanization), gold confiscation via EO 6102 (economic oppression). WWII & Great Depression existential crises.
Woodrow Wilson (1913–21)	4	7	Espionage & Sedition Acts (rights denial), Palmer Raids & mass deportations (coercion), federal racial segregation & screening of Birth of a Nation at White House (dehumanization), WWI propaganda machine (psychological subjugation) – wartime intensity but temporary. Crisis: WWI

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Famous Global Liberators (ROLIS 9-10)

Leader / Moment	ROTIS	ROLIS	Brief Description
Cincinnatus (Rome 458 & 439 BC)	1	10	Twice granted absolute dictatorship, solved crisis in days, immediately resigned and returned to farm – the original model of power surrendered.
George Washington (1789–97)	1	10	Resigned as commander-in-chief, refused kingship, two-term limit, Bill of Rights, Farewell Address – the modern Cincinnatus who made tyranny "unthinkable."
Václav Havel (Czech-oslovakia / Czech 1989–2003)	1-2	9-10	Prisoner → president via Velvet Revolution, protected free speech even for communists, peacefully dissolved his own country when people wanted it, voluntarily left office.
Swiss Con-federation (1848–present)	1-2	9-10	Armed neutrality, rotating one-year presidency, direct democracy referenda, cantonal sovereignty – the longest-running near-perfect liberty engine in history.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Infamous Global Tyrants (ROTIS 9–10)

Leader / Regime	ROTIS	ROLIS	Brief Description
Pol Pot (Cambodia 1975–79)	10	1	Year Zero: abolished money, cities, schools, religion; executed anyone with glasses or education; killing fields wiped out 25 % of population – only leader to achieve literal societal annihilation.
Joseph Stalin (USSR 1937–53 peak)	9	2	Great Purge (700 k executed), Gulags, Holodomor famine (6–8 M dead), total cult of personality – killed tens of millions but kept a functioning industrial state.
Adolf Hitler (Germany 1938–45)	9	2	Enabling Act, Gestapo, Holocaust (6 M Jews + millions others), total war – Nero Decree (order to destroy all German infrastructure in 1945) was issued but not fully executed; would have been 10 if completed.
Mao Zedong (China 1958–76 peak)	9	2	Great Leap Forward famine (30–50 M dead), Cultural Revolution Red Guards, “struggle sessions” – largest death toll in history but party structure survived.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Life-Cycle of Societies via the ROLIS/ROTIS Lens-1

Phase of Society	Typical ROTIS + ROLIS Combination	Sum	What It Looks Like in Reality
1. Birth / Founding Moment	ROTIS 2–4 + ROLIS 7–9	9–13	Covenant energy is high; old tyranny is rejected or collapsing. Founders deliberately build Liberating Methods while old tyrannical structures are still weak. Examples: American 1776–1789, Swiss 1848, post-WWII West Germany
2. Golden Age / Maturity	ROTIS 1–3 + ROLIS 8–10	9–13	Liberty institutions are strong and culturally embedded; tyranny is structurally impossible. The "city on a hill" phase. Examples: Switzerland most of 1848–2025, U.S. 1830–1890, Athens 5th century BC
3. Complacency & Drift	ROTIS 3–5 + ROLIS 6–8	≈11	Institutions still work but cultural vigilance weakens; small tyrannical methods begin creeping in unnoticed. Examples: Rome late Republic, U.S. 1930–2000
4. Stagnation	ROTIS 4–6 + ROLIS 5–7	≈11	Drift hardens; partial methods (e.g., economic oppression) become norm. E.g., EU 2010–2025, U.S. post-2008.

Life-Cycle of Societies via the ROLIS/ROTIS Lens-2

Phase of Society	Typical ROTIS + ROLIS Combination	Sum	What It Looks Like in Reality
5. Crisis / Stress Test	ROTIS spikes 5–8 + ROLIS drops 4–6	11–14	External war, economic crash, or moral panic. The decisive fork: either liberty methods are temporarily suspended "for safety" → tyranny path, or they are reinforced → renewal.
6A. Tyranny Path (most common)	ROTIS 7–10 + ROLIS 2–4	≈11	Perpetual Tyranny Machine takes over. Systemic Evil becomes entrenched. Examples: Rome → Empire, Weimar → Nazis, Venezuela 1999–2025
6B. Liberty Renewal Path (rare)	ROTIS drops back to 2–4 + ROLIS climbs to 8–10	>11	New safeguards added; power decentralized again. "Second founding." Examples: England 1688 Glorious Revolution, U.S. post-Civil War amendments (in theory), Eastern Europe 1989–1991
7. Partition / Frozen Conflict	ROTIS 6–9 + ROLIS 3–7 in separate zones	>11	Duality hardens into divided zones. E.g., Korea 1953–2025, Cyprus 1974–2025

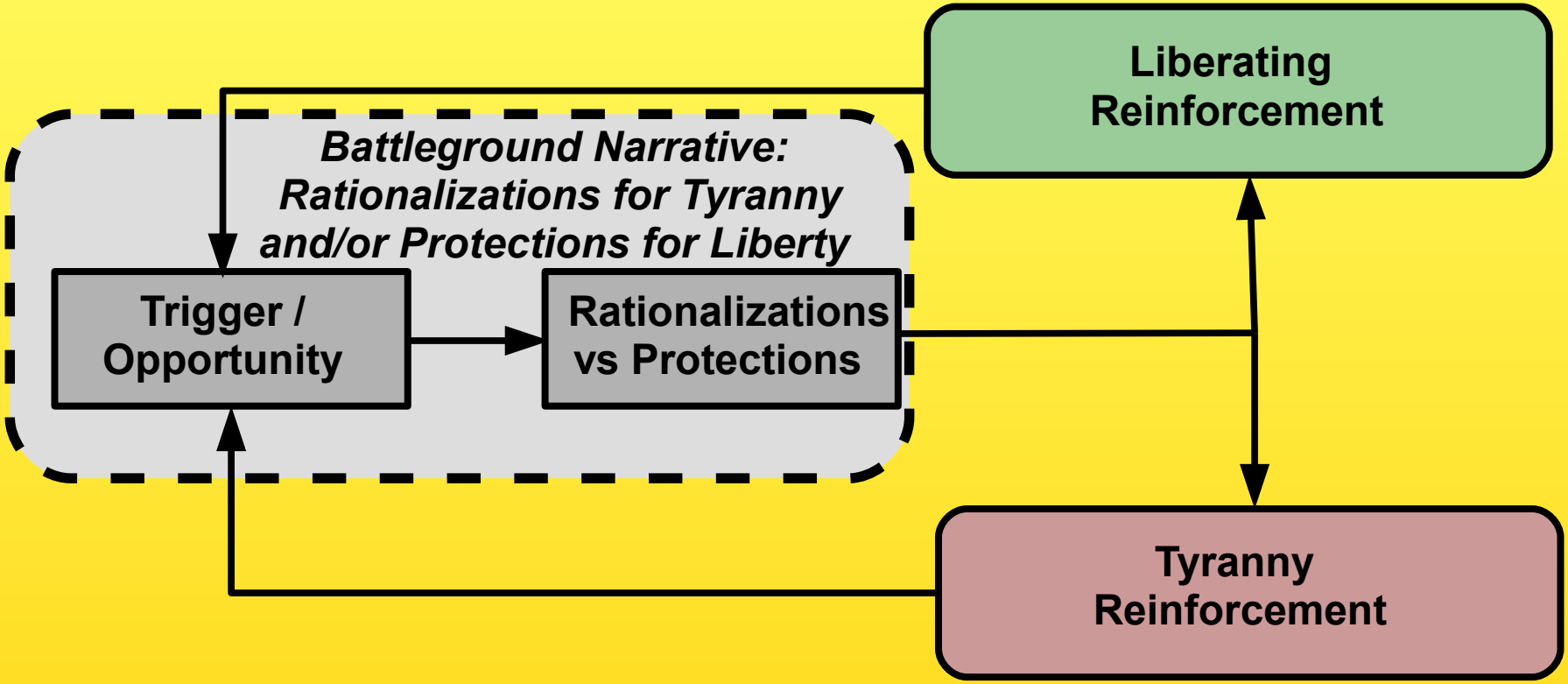
X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Life-Cycle of Societies via the ROLIS/ROTIS Lens-3

Phase of Society	Typical ROTIS + ROLIS Combination	Sum	What It Looks Like in Reality
8. Death / Collapse	ROTIS 6–8 + ROLIS 1–3	<11	Institutions fail under weight of tyranny; no one left to defend liberty. State implodes. Examples: Somalia 1991, Yugoslavia 1991–1995, late Roman West
9. Anarchic Void	ROTIS 1–2 + ROLIS 1–2	≈2–4	The "Sum = 2" moment – politics ceases. Pure survival.
10. Rebirth	New cycle begins again at Phase 1	—	Survivors or invaders re-found order – either covenantal (back to high ROLIS) or tyrannical (high ROTIS).

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

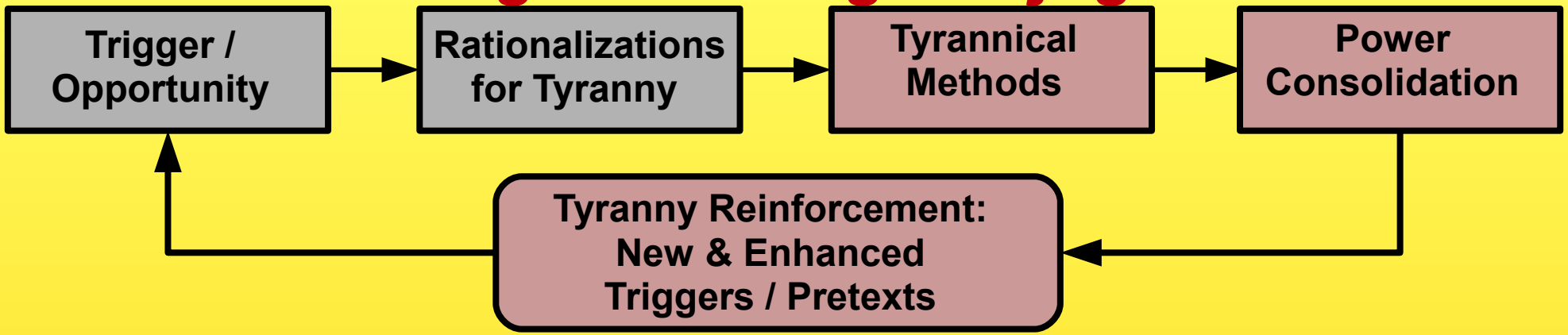
Battleground: One Trigger Two Narratives – Two Potential Futures



Primary Battleground – The Narrative:

- ***Trigger/Opportunity*** is the raw event or situation (war, economic collapse, scandal, assassination attempt, natural disaster, leaked memo, etc.)
- The primary battle between tyrannical forces and liberating forces occurs at the early stages — specifically in who gets to write the dominant narrative and which reinforcement loop gets energized.

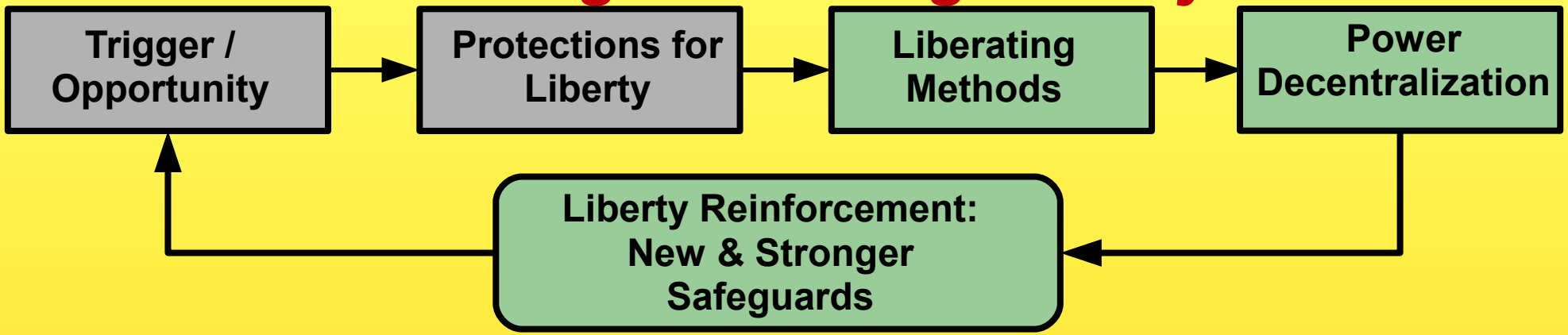
The Vicious Tyranny Cycle – The Engine Driving Subjugation



Categories of Triggers/Opportunities for Increased Tyrannical Methods (Pretext):

- ***Emergency/Crisis Invocation*** (e.g., Hitler blamed communists for the 1933 Reichstag arson; Trump blames radical left for the 2025 Kirk assassination)
- ***Scapegoating and Enemy Creation*** (e.g., enemies of the State)
- ***National Unity and Heroic Leadership*** (e.g., unify against internal enemies)
- ***Moral Necessity and Atrocity Normalization*** (e.g., dehumanization and violence against opponents as a moral imperative)
- ***Disinformation and Media Assimilation*** (e.g., flood the zone with propaganda).

The Virtuous Liberating Cycle – The Engine Driving Liberty



Categories of Triggers/Opportunities for Increased Liberating Methods:

- ***Crisis Averted or Overcome*** (e.g., surviving a war, depression, or attempted coup without surrendering rights)
- ***Exposure of Tyranny*** (e.g., whistle-blowers, leaked documents, or public trials that reveal abuse)
- ***Moral Awakening & Repentance*** (e.g., national reckoning with past injustices – abolition, civil rights, post-Nazi Germany)
- ***Generational Renewal*** (e.g., new citizens educated in liberty demand stronger safeguards than their parents had)
- ***Peaceful Transfer or Decentralization of Power*** (e.g., voluntary retirement of a leader, devolution to states, sunset clauses kicking in).

The Governance Interface

A Governance Interface is the specific relationship through which power is exercised over an entity (person, family, association, company, nation...). It is not the ruler or the ruled — it is the rules of the game between them.

Core idea: One entity can have multiple interfaces running simultaneously, each with its own ROTIS/ROLIS score. These interfaces can reinforce, contradict, or compete with each other.

Examples:

- Federal vs State: In 2025 U.S., the federal interface (Trump executive orders) might be ROTIS 7, while a state interface (California courts blocking them) is ROLIS 8.
- Slave Master vs President: George Washington as president = ROTIS 1 (national interface); as plantation owner = ROTIS 8 (slave interface).
- Corporate vs Union: A company board (ROTIS 6 for workers) vs internal union (ROLIS 7 for members).

Why it matters: Governance Interfaces explain why ROTIS + ROLIS can sum >11 (or =20 in extremes) — because the two engines aren't averaging; they're colliding at the boundary.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

Governance Zone Analysis – Revealing Governance Boundary Tension

Analyze any Study Area of choice – a region, country, city, company, household, or single room.

A Zone = any sub-area inside the Study Area that operates under a distinct governance interface.

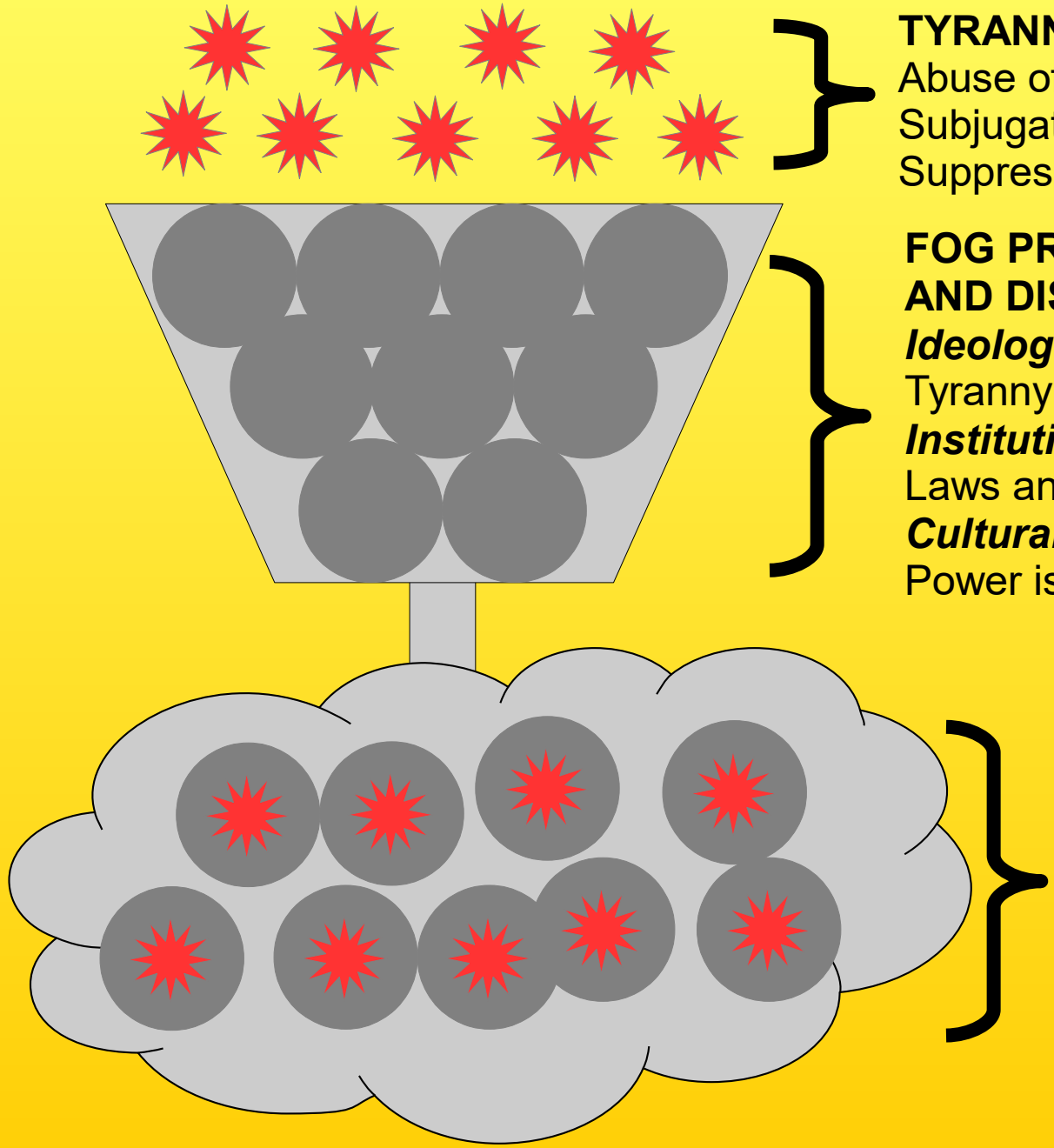
Process: (1) Define your Study Area; (2) Map the zones inside it; (3) Score each zone's governance interface (ROTIS / ROLIS); (4) Identify Governance Duality → sum >11 → instability

Examples:

- Tyranny Inside Liberty: Human-trafficking house in Geneva (ROTIS 10) inside Switzerland (ROLIS 10) → sum 20; Zone = the house; Boundary = four walls
- Liberty Inside Tyranny: Resistance safe house in Nazi-occupied Paris (ROLIS 8) inside Third Reich (ROTIS 9) → sum 17; Zone = the house; Boundary = four walls
- Korean Peninsula: North zone (ROTIS 10) + South zone (ROLIS 9) → aggregate sum ≈19; Boundary = the DMZ.

Governance Duality is always unstable when ROTIS + ROLIS >11. The boundary becomes a friction point where one engine destroys the other. Positive instability (high-ROLIS inside high-ROTIS) usually wins long-term. Negative instability (high-ROTIS inside high-ROLIS) wins short-term but self-destructs.

The Fog of Tyranny – Obscuring Systemic Evil



TYRANNICAL METHODS (all nine methods):
Abuse of Executive Power; Psychological Subjugation; Military Overreach & Suppression; Dehumanization & Atrocities;...

FOG PROCESSING TO OBSCURE TYRANNY AND DISTORT MORALITY:
Ideological Justification:
Tyranny is sold as "necessary" or "progress."
Institutional Normalization:
Laws and systems legitimize the abuse.
Cultural Celebration of Tyranny:
Power is glorified; victims are mocked.

THE FOG OF TYRANNY IN ACTION:
Collective Complicity
People participate or stay silent.
Rationalization
Evil is excused as "temporary" or "someone else's fault."
Tyrannical Demonization
Opponents are branded sub-human (e.g., enemies mindset).

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

The Light of Liberty – Revealing Systemic Good

LIBERATING METHODS (all nine methods):
Strict Separation of Powers & Checks and Balances; Transparent, Consent-Based Taxation & Spending; Absolute Free Speech, Truth Pluralism; Universal Civic Education & Critical Thinking...

LIGHT OF LIBERTY PROCESSING:
Moral Clarity – Liberty is justice; tyranny is named as evil;
Institutional Transparency – Power is watched, exposed, and checked;
Cultural Celebration of Liberty – Courage, truth, and resistance are honored.

LIGHT OF LIBERTY IN ACTION:
Collective Vigilance – Citizens resist instead of comply;
Ruthless Truth-Telling – Lies are destroyed, not repeated;
Human Dignity Upheld – No one is demonized or dehumanized.

X.com: @MichaelFargano, Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 – w/ Grok (xAI) Research Partner

The Moral Covenant of Governance

Liberating vs Tyrannical Governance
The Never-Ending Battle Over Unalienable Rights

For centuries, implied moral governance has failed, allowing tyranny to masquerade as necessity and erode unalienable rights through gradual encroachments.

by
Michael Fargano & Grok (xAI)
December 19, 2025

Document download available here:
https://archive.org/details/@michael_fargano
Or X.com: @MichaelFargano

CC BY

Free Cultural APPROVED FOR Works

The Moral Covenant of Governance

Liberating vs Tyrannical Governance

The Never-Ending Battle Over Unalienable Rights

Abstract

This deck presents the Moral Covenant of Governance as the explicit moral foundation needed to secure unalienable rights in the never-ending battle between liberating and tyrannical governance. Drawing from historical lessons on the failure of implied morality, it outlines three pillars—Adherence to the Golden Rule, Protection of the Commons, and Securing of Unalienable Rights—to counter tyranny's methods and cycles. Through technical analysis—taxonomies, scales (ROTIS/ROLIS), life-cycle analysis, and zone duality—the deck equips readers to identify subjugation, foster liberty, and adopt the covenant in any context—from nations to households. Upbeat and actionable, it celebrates liberty's edge in positive instability, empowering a virtuous cycle of renewal for all generations.